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SUB ROSA: The CIA and the Uses of Intelligence

Peer de Silva. Times Books, \$12.50
ISBN 0-8129-0745-0

This book is an addition to the recent crop of reticent if action-packed pro-CIA memoirs by ex-CIA officials. De Silva, now retired, has held high posts: chief of the Foreign Intelligence Staff, station chief of Vienna, Hong Kong, Saigon, etc. As a hard-liner he defends his support of Korean General Park's 1961 military coup and praises Park's regime as "progressive, innovative, constructive." De Silva takes pride in his creation of counterinsurgency teams in Vietnam, blaming U.S. defeat at least partially on the subordination of such teams under Westmoreland's centralized command. De Silva includes stories of CIA-KGB duels with bugs, although he stresses the value of human (versus electronic) intelligence. There is also material on his work with German master spy Gehlen, an impassioned account of the crushed Hungarian Revolution, and lots of spy-adventure stuff—e.g., an exotic romance and a close call when a bomb exploded in his car in Saigon. [September 28]